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# DELIVER TO EXAMINER

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## FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

PLEASE DELIVER TO: EXAMINER: DAVID MELLON
PATENT APPLICATION NO. 10/532,560
FACSIMILE NUMBER: 571-270-8074

COMMENTS: Dear Examiner Mellon:
Further to our telephone discussion of April 9, 2010, I am attaching my claim amendment proposal to try and break the logjam in this case. I will give you a call next week to get your thoughts and see whether we need to have a detailed discussion of my arguments. Thanks very much in advance for your cooperation.

SENDER: Christopher W. Brody 202-835-1753

DATE: April 9, 2010

CLIENT NO. 71247-38

NUMBER OF PAGES:
(INCLUDING COVER PAGE) ___2_____

If all pages are not received, please contact ***Melissa Garton*** at (202) 835-1111.

10/532,560 71247-0038

1. Membrane for tangential filtration of a fluid to be treated, said membrane comprising:

a porous support (2) having an inner surface 4; and

at least one separator layer (5) coated on the inner surface (4) of the porous support, the separator layer (5) defining at least one flow channel (3) for fluid to be treated having an inlet (6) and an outlet (7), the fluid flowing in a given direction (f) from the inlet (6) to the outlet (7), wherein a permeate as a fraction of the fluid being treated passes through the separator layer (5) and the porous support (2);

wherein the porous support (2) has a variable, partial pore-filling (c) that uses inorganic particles and extends into the porous support (2) beginning at the inner surface (4) of the porous support (2) that is in contact with the separator layer (5); and

further wherein the variable, partial pore-filling (c) in a portion (8) of the porous support (2) of given constant thickness creates a mean porosity gradient in the direction of flow of the fluid to be treated, participates with the separator layer (5) in membrane permeability, and produces a minimum mean porosity located at the inlet (6) and a maximum mean porosity located at the outlet (7).

~~delimiting at least one flow channel (3) for the fluid to be treated flowing in a given direction(f) between an inlet (6) and an outlet (7), the inner surface (4) of the porous support (2) which delimits channel (3) being coated with at least one separator layer (5) for the fluid to be treated, a fraction called a permeate passing through the separator layer (5) and the porous support (2), characterized in that the support has variable, partial pore filling (c) extending from each inner surface (4) of support (2) on which the separator layer (5) is deposited, and obtained with inorganic particles, this said partial pore filling, on a portion (8) of support (2) of a given constant thickness (e) extending from the inner surface (4) of support (2), creating a mean porosity gradient in the direction of flow of the fluid to be treated, the minimum mean porosity being located at the inlet(6) and the maximum mean porosity at the outlet (7).~~